

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

PA-03 PRS-01 AGR-20 SS-15 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10

IO-15 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 DRC-01 TAR-02

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O R 041510Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6813

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1498

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2591

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI, EEC

SUBJECT: FINLAND-EEC AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED OCTOBER 5

REF: HELSINKI 2574

1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT AMBASSADOR
TALVITIE WILL SIGN THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
FINLAND AND EEC IN BRUSSELS ON OCTOBER 5.

2. FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AT
CABINET MEETING PRESIDED OVER BY THE PRESIDENT
WHEN EEC DECISION WAS MADE ON OCTOBER 3, 1973:

"AS I AUTHORIZE TODAY THE SIGNING OF THE TARIFF

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AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, I

AM DOING SO WITH THE FOLLOWING PREMISES:

"THE SOLUTION NOW MADE IS A TRADE POLICY ONE. ITS PURPOSE IS TO SAFEGUARD IN A CHANGED SITUATION FINLAND'S COMPETITIVE POSITION, WHICH IS A BASIC PREREQUISITE FOR OUR CONTINUED ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

"THE QUESTION OF SETTLING OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE ENLARGED EEC HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY DEBATED, STUDIED AND EXPLAINED. IT HAS ALSO BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC. DIFFERENT OPINIONS HAVE BEEN HEARD. AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION THE GOVERNMENT HAS ARRIVED AT THE DECISION TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS.

"WHEN I MADE MY DECISION, I WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE EFFECTS OF THE AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE EXCLUSIVELY POSITIVE. THIS IS ANOTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR GIVING THE GOVERNMENT BETTER LEGISLATIVE MEANS THAN IT HAS NOW TO REGULATE THE EFFECTS OF FOREIGN TRADE. A FAILURE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC WOULD HAVE MEANT A DEVIATION FROM THE TRADITIONAL ROAD TOWARD THE LIBERATION OF TRADE AND RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLY WORSE PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT THAN THOSE CAUSED BY THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. THIS HAS BEEN OUR STARTING POINT AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE TO IT THAT THE POWER TO DECIDE ALSO IN ECONOMIC MATTERS REMAINS FIRMLY IN OUR OWN HANDS. IN MY VIEW, THE PRESENT AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS WILL SPEED UP THE GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES OF CONTROL, WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR RESTRAINING THE INFLUENCE OF SUPRA-NATIONAL ENTERPRISES ON OUR ECONOMY.

"FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING A PURELY COMMERCIAL SOLUTION, WHICH WOULD ENSURE OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN KEEPING WITH OUR POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND WHICH WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY BALANCED AND CONSISTENT WITH ALL OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. I THINK WE HAVE FOUND SUCH A SOLUTION. HOWEVER, THIS REQUIRES FURTHER PRAGMATIC MEASURES, DISCUSSIONS ON WHICH HAVE ALREADY STARTED WITH CERTAIN COMECON COUNTRIES.

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"IT IS THE TASK OF THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF OUR NATION IN CHANGING EUROPE AND A CHANGING WORLD. THE ACTION NOW DECIDED UPON IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF FINLAND'S OVER-ALL POLICIES. A NEW SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IS DEVELOPING IN EUROPE, I HOPE A SAFER AND MORE PEACEFUL SYSTEM THAN BEFORE AND WHICH HAS HAD AND WILL HAVE FINLAND'S UNRESERVED SUPPORT.

"WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH OUR FOREIGN POLICY
ON GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AND STRICT OBSERVANCE
OF THE AGREEMENTS WE HAVE CONCLUDED. IN THIS RESPECT
NOTHING HAS CHANGED AND NOTHING WILL CHANGE. THE
POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE CONSTELLATIONS OF
COMMERCIAL POLICY IN EUROPE MAY CHANGE, BUT FINLAND'S
BASIC LINE OF PEACE-LOVING FOREIGN POLICY, WHOSE
CORNERSTONE IS THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION
AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED."
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HELSIN02591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731051/aaaablpu.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HELSINKI 2574
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINLAND-EEC AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED OCTOBER 5
TAGS: PFOR, FI, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005